



# for your information

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Pacific Southwest Research Station, Albany, CA 94710

## Matthews' Trout Research Makes Headlines

Research that's being conducted by Kathleen Matthews of the Sierra Nevada Montane Ecosystems Research Unit, Fresno, has received much "press" recently, in the form of write-ups in the *Los Angeles Times*, *Seattle Times*, *National Wildlife*, and *California Biodiversity News*. Kathleen, a fish biologist, has spent 4 years studying the effects of stocking introduced species of trout in lakes on the disappearance of the mountain yellow-legged frog in more than 2,000 high-elevation lakes in the John Muir Wilderness and Kings Canyon National Park in the Sierra Nevada. Kathleen has conducted her work with Roland Knapp, who is a fish biologist at the Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Laboratory at the University of California at Santa Barbara.

For more than 150 years, many of the lakes that were originally fishless have been stocked with non-native trout to meet public demand for recreational fishing. And, in many of these lakes, the populations of frogs are declining. The trout are believed to play a significant role in the frogs' decline, as the fish are voracious predators that feed on amphibians, and especially on tadpoles and other young. The mountain yellow-legged frog is an indicator species, meaning that its presence or absence can signal a presence or loss of biodiversity—insects, planktons, and other amphibians—in lakes. The researchers' goals are to learn how to save the frog and other species from potential endangerment, while also sustaining healthy recreational trout fishing in the region.

## In Memoriam

Charles G. (Chuck) Colver, long-time manager of the Station's San Dimas Experimental Forest in southern California, died on January 17, in Portland, Ore., at age 77. Upon his retirement in 1988, after 42 years of Federal service, the Forest Service named a 5,511-ft mountain "Colver Peak" in his honor. The Peak towers west of Mount Baldy Village, on the Angeles National Forest, where Chuck had worked for many years. He served at the San Dimas Experimental Forest on three different occasions: from 1947 to 1955, as a research technician; from 1962 to 1973, as a supervising technician; and from 1977 to 1988, as Forest manager. During World War II, he was wounded in combat as a U.S. Army machine gunner. As a firefighter on the Angeles National Forest, he flew in a Bell B-1 helicopter at the massive Bryant Fire—which marked the first use of a helicopter in forest firefighting. Chuck was active in civic affairs, as well, serving as Mayor of Covina, his hometown, for 4 years, and as Councilmember for 14 years. He is survived by his wife, Mary; a son, Ed; a daughter, Mary Lou; two grandchildren; and three great grandchildren.

## PSW Awards Internal Competitive Grants

Internal competitive grants for 1998 have been announced by Station Director Hal Salwasser. Of the 15 proposals submitted to the Committee of Scientists for consideration, 4 were awarded funding. Those selected were:

\* Paul Scowcroft, Ecosystem Processes Restoration Team, Honolulu: "Effects of 11-year-old *Acacia koa* trees planted in grassland on availability and transformation of soil nitrogen and phosphorus."

\* Dennis O'Dowd, Non-Indigenous Species Research Team, Hilo: "Demographic analysis in areas of origin and invasion: tools to understand and manage invasion by *Miconia calvescens*."

\* Kathy Ewel, Forested Wetlands Research Team, Honolulu: "Carbon linkages between freshwater swamps and mangrove forests in Kosrae, Micronesia."

\* James Allen, Forested Wetlands Research Team, Honolulu: "Limitations on the regeneration and distribution of *Xylocarpus granatum*: a test of the dominance-predation model."

## CalFlora Site Provides Ecology Information

There's a new place on the Internet for ecologists to obtain information about California ferns, conifers, and flowering plants. CalFlora, located at <http://elib.cs.berkeley.edu/calflora/>, features data for more than 8,000 recognized taxa. It provides resources for research on plant distribution and diversity patterns; information about individual species, such as habitat, alternative names, and rarity status; links to other online resources, including maps, pictures, specimen records, and other botanical database systems; and downloading availability of all or selected data for custom manipulation. Collaborators and data providers for the site include PSW, UC Berkeley's Digital Library Project, and the UC Davis Information Center for the Environment. Ann Dennis, Forest Genetics Research Unit, Albany, is the Station's representative on the project.

## Meetings/Conferences/Seminars

\* Brian Boroski, Sierra Nevada Montane Ecosystems Research Unit, Fresno, presented a paper, "Assessing environmental and anthropogenic impacts on the habitat suitability of winter range for black-tailed deer," at the Second Annual Mule Deer Foundation Symposium, Jan. 9 in Sacramento.

\* Connie Millar, Forest Genetics Research Unit, Albany, gave a seminar, "1,000 years of vegetation history at Glass Creek (eastern Sierra): evaluating the concept of historic variability in ecosystem management," on Jan. 20 at Albany, for visitors from the University of California at Berkeley.

## Region 5 Hosts "Event" for Employees

On Nov. 18-20, Region 5 hosted an event in Sacramento which brought employees from all ranks of R-5 and PSW together to discuss issues facing the Region—including the fact that the Region has been designated as a FS "Reinvention Laboratory"—and to explore options for handling them.

PSW's representatives were: Sara Garetz, Group Leader—Library Services, Albany; Connie Gill, Public Affairs Officer, Redding; Irene Powell, Administrative Officer, Riverside; Gladys Evans, Civil Rights Manager, Albany; Phil Aune, Program Manager—Ecology/Management of Western Forests, Redding; and Rosanne Hunt, Group Leader—Personnel Management, Albany. More than 200 Region 5 employees attended overall, as did representatives from external groups which have an interest in FS activities, including Sierra Pacific and the Wilderness Society.

Topics which were discussed included: economic marketing and reinvention, the open marketplace, reducing overhead, public trust, leadership, creating an empowered workforce, ecosystem management, collaboration, budgeting, and accountability.

## Personnelly Speaking

### *Quality-Step Increase*

\* Debbie Chavez, Wildland Recreation/Urban Cultures Research Unit, Riverside: "for outstanding performance in 1997."

\* Michael Haverty, Project Leader—Insect Chemical Ecology Research, Albany: "for broad and consistent service and leadership."

\* Pat Winter, Wildland Recreation/Urban Cultures Research Unit, Riverside: "for outstanding performance in 1997."

### *Cash Award*

\* David Weise, Project Leader—Prescribed Fire/Fire Effects Research, Riverside: "for efforts in planning and conducting the National Fuels Research Workshop, November 6-7, 1997, Riverside."

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## Job Vacancy

	<b>Closes</b>
Computer Specialist, GS-0334-11, Redding	2-1-98
Support Serv. Supervisor, GS-0342-9, Albany (detail)	2-5-98
Wildlife Biologist, GS-0486-5, Chester	2-6-98
Wildlife Biologist, GS-0486-5, Shaver Lake	2-9-98
Bio. Sci. Technician, GS-0404-5, Klamath River	2-12-98
Biologist, GS-0401-9, Redding	2-23-98
Visual Information Specialist, GS-1084-7/9, Albany	2-26-98
Librarian, GS-1410-11, Albany	3-2-98
Res. Landscape Ecol., GS-0408-12/13/14, Arcata	3-20-98
Biological Aid/Technician, GS-0404-4/5/6/7	9-28-98
Wildlife Biologist, GS-0486-5/7/9	9-28-98

## Executive Calendar

### February 2-6

Salwasser . . . . .	M-Tu: Asilomar; W-Th: Riverside; F: Albany
Aune . . . . .	M-F: Redding
Bell (Acting) . . . . .	M-Tu: Albany; W-Th: Riverside; F: Albany
DeMuth (Backup) . . . . .	M-F: Albany
Ewel . . . . .	M-F: Honolulu
Mason . . . . .	M-W: Albany; Th: Davis; F: Albany

### February 9-13

Salwasser . . . . .	M: Albany; Tu-Th: Reno; F: Sacramento
Aune . . . . .	M-F: Redding
Bell (Acting) . . . . .	M-F: Albany
DeMuth (Backup) . . . . .	M-F: Albany
Ewel . . . . .	M-F: Honolulu
Mason . . . . .	M-F: Albany

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